

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 27, 2013

## Alaska Military Youth Academy to graduate 144 cadets

**CAMP DENALI, Alaska** – The Alaska Military Youth Academy will celebrate the graduation of 144 cadets of class 2013-1 from its Challe*NG*e program Friday.

The 10 a.m. graduation ceremony will be held in the Tikahtnu Ballroom at the Dena'ina Center in downtown Anchorage. The guest speaker for the graduation is Gov. Sean Parnell.

The 144 graduating cadets of class 2013-1 had the highest class retention rate in AMYA history. The average academic grade level improvement of this class is the highest since 2006.

During their 22-week residential phase at the AMYA ChalleNGe program, the corps of cadets focused on academics, military style discipline, physical fitness, vocational training and community service.

The 144 cadets set to graduate from the Alaska Military Youth Academy will join the 3,795 previous graduates since 1994. This is the  $38^{th}$  class to have graduated from the AMYA Challe*NG*e program.

Upon graduation, cadets take part in a yearlong post-residential phase where graduates return to their communities to enter the workplace, continue their education (high school or higher education) or enter the military. The goal of this phase is for graduates to sustain and build on the gains made during the residential phase.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy continues to help intervene in and reclaim the lives of youth and produce program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults.

**Who:** Alaska Military Youth Academy **What:** Graduation ceremony for 144 cadets

Where: Tikahtnu Ballroom, Dena'ina Center, Anchorage, Alaska

**When:** Friday, March 1, 10 a.m.